

Cottage at 941 Bourbon Street,
New Orleans, Louisiana

Orleans Parish

HABS No. LA-24

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 18

Historic American Buildings Survey
Richard Koch, District Officer
614 Audubon Building, New Orleans, Louisiana

"COTTAGE"

(Residence)

941 Bourbon Street

New Orleans
Louisiana

Orleans Parish

Owner

Henry and John August Barbe

Date of Erection

Unknown

Architect

Unknown

Builder

Unknown

Present Condition

Badly in need of repairs. Chimneys have been removed above the roof. Partitions on first floor have been removed.

Materials of Construction

Walls of brick between posts. Exterior walls stuccoed. Interior walls plastered, some rooms lately covered with T & G ceiling. Ground floors of concrete. Framing timber and other woodwork cypress. Roof covered with slate.

Other existing Records

Chain of Title (Copy attached)

History of Louisiana - Grace King and John R.

Ficklen; L. Graham & Sons, New Orleans, 1893

New Orleans, Its Old Houses, Shops & Public

Buildings - N. C. Curtis; J. B. Lippincott, 1933

Additional Data:

This building, ordinarily termed Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop, situated in the heart of the Vieux Carre on the corner of Bourbon and St. Phillip Streets, is an example of the small cottage type in New Orleans of over a century ago, and is one of the very few remaining.

The walls are of brick between posts, typical of the method of construction widely employed when this

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building was erected, and called briquetees entre poteaux. Exterior walls are stuccoed with cement, which has fallen off in many places revealing the posts and bricks. Partitions of brick between posts formerly divided the building longitudinally, these having been replaced with wooden partitions.

The inside brick walls were originally plastered but have subsequently been covered with T & G ceiling and the ceiling beams in rooms 3 and 4 have likewise been covered with wood. The original ground floor was probably of wood, but has been replaced with a concrete floor. All fire places have been bricked up and the two chimneys were removed above the roof.

Later additions to the building are the two closets on the ground floor and the corrugated iron shed in the front. The two rooms in the attic have plastered walls and ceilings with floor and base of wood. The roof and sides of the dormers are covered with slate nailed to the sheathing and the ridges are covered with terra-cotta tile.

The building is now in rather bad condition, having been neglected for a number of years. Some of the structural timbers are termite-infested and the stucco has fallen off the walls in many places. The roof, however is good and has so far preserved the building from complete decay.

Present owners of the building are Henry Barbe and John August Barbe. However, there are no records as to when or by whom it was erected. The chain of title to the

site dates back as far as February 9, 1761, and it is possible that the building was erected about that time by Pierre Revil, who acquired the property on that date from Jean Baptiste Laporte and Dominick Jolly, these latter being the earliest owners on record.

There is a bronze plate on the corner of the building reading:

"LAFITTE'S RENDEZVOUS

Site Blacksmith Shop, 1810"

It is generally accepted by chroniclers of Louisiana history that the Lafitte Brothers operated a blacksmith shop on St. Phillip and Bourbon Streets and much interest is evidenced in the building by visitors on that account.

In "HISTORY OF LOUISIANA", written by Grace King and John R. Ficklen, professor of history at Tulane University, published in 1895, it is stated that:

"The Lafittes, Pierre and Jean, came from France and opened a blacksmith shop in New Orleans on St. Phillip Street. They gave this up as a slow method of acquiring wealth and moved to Grand Isle on the South Coast of Louisiana where they became leaders of the Baratarians, who were smugglers and privateers. In the latter part of 1814 when General Jackson prepared to defend New Orleans against the British, the Lafittes offered him the services of the Baratarians. General Jackson was reluctant to deal with these pirates but after some misgivings was won over by Lafitte's manly bearing and attractive manners; also because he needed every man available, he accepted Lafitte's offer. The Baratarians fought like tigers wherever they

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were placed under their leaders, the Lafittes and Dominique You. General Jackson, after the Battle of New Orleans declared that the Baratarians under the Lafittes deserved the thanks of the country and at his suggestion the President of the United States pardoned the Baratarians for all their past misdeeds."

There are no available records to prove that this building ever belonged to the Lafitte Brothers, but the chain of title shows that the property, during the time of the Lafittes, belonged to Margaret Robert, wife of Simon Duroche, alias Castillon.

CHAIN OF TITLE

Present owners: Henry Barbe and John August Barbe, who acquired from Clement Dabezies on March 31, 1913. John H. Forcelle, N. P. Sketch made by H. C. Brown, Deputy City Surveyor attached to act of sale.

Clement Dabezies acquired from Estate of Miss Angele Marie Langles, who acquired from her father, John Langles; succession No. 31541, dated March 2, 1891. Act of sale passed before Charles T. Soniat, N. P. on July 1, 1901.

John Langles acquired from the succession of Hugh M. Dowlin, July 3, 1885; act before Charles T. Soniat, N. P.

Hugh Dowling acquired from Mrs. Marie Aimee Mercier, widow of the late Louis Christian Miltenberger; act by A. Ducatel, N.P., May 2, 1851.

The Widow Miltenberger acquired from heirs of Marguerite Robert, widow of Simon Duroche, alias Castillon; act passed before Louis T. Caire, N.P., Nov. 30, 1833

Marguerite Robert, wife of Simon Duroche, acquired by inheritance from Bartholomew Robert; act before Leonard Mazaugue, N. P., April 3, 1781.

Bartholomes Robert acquired by act of sale from Marie Catherine Roche, wife of Peirre Revil, October 18, 1773; act before Jean Baptiste Garic, N. P.

Pierre Revil acquired from Jean Baptiste Laporte and Dominick Jolly; act passed before Augustin Chantalon, N.P., Feb. 9, Samuel Wilson, Jr. May 23, 1935
Revised 1936, H.C.F. 1761.